



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, January 31, 2008**

**08-15**

**ANCHORAGE MAN FACING 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON  
FOLLOWING CONVICTION ON A FIREARMS CRIME**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, January 31, 2008, that after deliberating for approximately two hours, a jury of eight men and four women found Deven Talafili Suesue guilty of one count of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Suesue, age 25, of 5006 Wesleyan Drive, Anchorage, was tried before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess in Anchorage.

According to Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, who prosecuted the case, the evidence presented at trial established that Suesue possessed two Russian SKS 7.62 X 39 mm semi-automatic rifles; a Ruger, Model Mini-14, .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle; a Ruger, Model 10-22, .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle, which was loaded with 25 rounds of Remington .22 caliber ammunition; 11 rounds of PMC .223 caliber ammunition; and 30 rounds of assorted 9 mm ammunition. The defendant kept the firearms and ammunition in his home, where the State of Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) had permitted him to serve his sentence for his December 24, 2006, felony conviction in state court. The defendant had entered into a contract with DOC, which required him to wear an electronic monitor and prohibited the possession of firearms and alcohol in the home designated for his house arrest. In addition to the firearms and ammunition, law enforcement officers also found bottles of alcoholic beverages in the defendant's home. The defendant testified that, though he had owned these firearms for hunting before his state felony conviction, he was not aware that they were in his home.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing for April 7, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of ten years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based on the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Suesue continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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